

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 3721

Application No. 10/520,673

Paper Dated December 19, 2007

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of September 19, 2007

Attorney Docket No. 3988-045995

REMARKS

The final Office Action of September 19, 2007 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 12-16 are currently pending in this application, and claim 12 is in independent form.

Claims 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the English Translation of the Taiwanese Office Action submitted in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed February 9, 2007. The Examiner is contending that this Taiwanese Office Action is dated September 29, 1995 and, therefore, constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). In view of the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

The Taiwanese Office Action referred to by the Examiner issued in Taiwanese Patent Application No. 92118741, which matured into a Taiwanese patent on July 1, 2007, and corresponds to the above-identified application. The number "95" provided on the Taiwanese Office Action in the area specified by the Examiner on page 5 of the Office Action is the Taiwanese National Calendar year equivalent to the year "2006".

More specifically, the Republic of China counted years as Years of the Republic beginning in 1912. Therefore, the year 1912 is the 1st Year of the Republic, 1949 is the 38th and 2006 is the 95th. Although China abandoned this system, it is still used for official purposes in Taiwan. Accordingly, since the Taiwanese Office Action has a date of September 29, 2006, instead of September 29, 1995, this Office Action does not constitute prior art. Additionally, the Taiwanese Office Action would not have been available to the public until Taiwanese Patent Application No. 92118741 matured into a patent on July 1, 2007. Therefore, the Taiwanese Office Action does not constitute prior art under any section of 35 U.S.C. §102.

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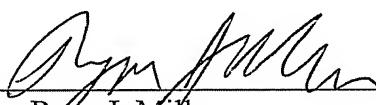
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Based on the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of pending claims 12-16 are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, or wish to discuss the application in further detail, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at 412-471-8815.

Respectfully submitted,

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